

have the answers we need and that Sandra Bland's family deserves.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO CHANGE THE GUN LAW

(Mr. VARGAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, we find some people so dangerous that we won't let them on a plane, but currently they can buy a gun. That makes no sense. How can you tell a person: No, you can't have that ticket, but would you like an automatic weapon? Would you like a machine gun?

That makes no sense.

If our law enforcement specialists, those that deal with this day in and day out, say to us this person should not get on a plane, how can we have laws right now that allow that person, then, to go right down to the store and get an automatic weapon and all the ammunition that he wants?

That makes no sense. In fact, the American people know that that makes no sense.

We need to change the law. We don't need a vacation. That is why we should be here right now debating these bills and doing something for the safety of our people.

CONGRESS NEEDS TO ADDRESS THREE CRISES

(Mr. NADLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, the Republican majority has decided to adjourn the House and take a 7-week vacation without dealing with the three crises that are pressing upon us now:

The epidemic of gun violence, a uniquely American crisis: every year, about 146 people die of gun violence in the United Kingdom, 71 in Denmark, 140 in Portugal, 30 in Japan—and 33,000 in the United States;

The Zika health crisis, which is about to give us thousands of terribly disabled babies; and

The Flint, Michigan, crisis, whose water was poisoned by the decision of the Governor's appointee.

We should not leave here without providing funds for Zika, funds without offsets and without irrelevant poison pills; we should at least enact a no fly, no buy bill and universal background checks to start dealing with the gun violence epidemic; and we should get Flint, Michigan, some drinkable water.

Let the majority deal with these three crises, then take a 6-week vacation if they want. But don't sentence thousands of Americans to die while you go off on vacation.

LEGISLATURE NEEDS TO GET ITS WORK DONE

(Mr. LARSON of Connecticut asked and was given permission to address

the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, in Dallas, Texas, we saw a champion. We saw a champion in Police Chief David Brown and how he conducted himself. When asked about his responsibility, he said: We will continue to do our responsibility as police officers, as we do every day out in the field. But the legislature needs to do its responsibility. The legislature needs to get its work done.

Those brave police officers do their work every day, and yet this Congress has not.

Roosevelt said it best about our colleagues on the other side of the aisle: They are frozen in the ice of their own indifference—indifference to the slaughter that takes place in our streets, indifference to the more than 1,000 mass murders that have taken place, indifference to the threat of Zika and the spread of disease, and indifference to children in Flint, Michigan.

It is time for us to do as David Brown said, "Do your job."

WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, AND WHY

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, in the course of these 1-minutes, of which there have been over 50, thank you, Mr. CICILLINE, for bringing us together once again on the steps of the Capitol a couple of nights ago and now here in the Chamber.

When we are in school and they ask us to write about something, they say: Answer these questions: Who? What? When? Where? Why?

Who? Little children in Newtown, young people in Orlando, churchgoers in South Carolina, moviegoers in Colorado, again and again. The list goes on and on as to the vulnerability.

What? What? What? Slaughter of people. Mr. THOMPSON has repeated the numbers over and over again. But 91 people killed every night on the streets of our country, and we had 91 people in orange shirts on the steps of the Capitol last week to mention that. Over 1,000 mass murders since Newtown, mass murders being described as over four people being killed in any one instance.

What? What? What? Violence on the streets of our city, and even in our churches and other.

Who? What? When? Every day. Every single day with greater frequency and intensity. Most recently, in Dallas. So sad. An assassination of five police officers. Many of us spoke to that in the course of the last few days.

Where? All over the country. I just mentioned Dallas, and I mentioned some other venues earlier. All over the country, every single day.

But the main question is, Why? Why is this happening? Mayor Rawlings of

Dallas was very eloquent in his comments when he said: We must address the root causes of this. Yes.

But why are these guns so readily available? Because Congress will not act—refuses to act—on passing commonsense gun violence prevention legislation. No fly, no buy. Almost everyone in our country supports that—Republicans, Democrats, Independents, gun owners, NRA members.

Not the NRA. The NRA stands between any commonsense solutions and this Congress, which I think they own.

Why? Because some people think their political survival is more important than survival of little kids in kindergarten in Newtown.

Why is it happening in kindergarten classes? in churches? in places of recreation for young people? in theaters? in bowling alleys? You name it, it has happened there.

Why? Because we have not fully impressed upon the American people their role in lobbying Congress to make a difference. We are limited in what we can ask people to do vis-a-vis Congress, but they are unlimited in their advocacy and in their capacity. Nothing is more eloquent to a Member of Congress than the voice of his or her own constituents.

As JOHN LEWIS, our beautiful icon who has led us in all of this, has said: What we have to do is convince the average Joe—that would be J-O or J-O-E—of their power to make the difference in our country by making their voices heard to Members of Congress who have the power to vote for legislation.

We ask over and over again for the Speaker to give us a vote because we believe and have confidence in the American people that their voices will be heard and not ignored again and again and again and again by the Republicans in Congress, but will give us a vote that will make America safer and help us to honor—to honor—our oath of office to protect and defend the American people.

This has gone into the realm of hate crimes. The same thing in South Carolina. The same thing in Orlando. It must end.

But our message is clear: we will not end until this is over, until we get commonsense gun violence prevention legislation passed by the Congress of the United States.

I thank all of my colleagues for what they are doing. Our whip, Mr. HOYER, is leader on the floor for us. Thank you for orchestrating this with Mr. CICILLINE and so many others. I thank my colleagues for making the voices of their constituents heard here.

GUN LOBBY HAS BLOCKED EFFORTS TO PASS SENSIBLE GUN LAWS

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, Maria and Fred Wright traveled to Washington to mark the 1-month anniversary of the murder of their son in Orlando. They wrote a beautiful op-ed:

While in D.C., we don't want just thoughts or prayers from Members of Congress. We want them to look us in the eyes and tell us: How will they work to make our Nation safer against gun violence? How will they perform their constitutional duty to "insure domestic tranquility" and "promote the general welfare"—some of the main roles of government according to our Constitution? How will they work to stand up to the extremist gun lobby and urge their fellow Members to do the same?

Unfortunately, for Maria and Fred Wright, and for all of us, they would have to run really fast to look into the eyes of Congress as our colleagues fled down the stairs to run out for a 7-week vacation and to do nothing. Their son, Jerry, is one of 33,000 Americans who will lose their life to gun violence every year in this country.

We urged our colleagues to bring to the floor something, do something in the face of this carnage. And we stay here as Democrats. The cameras can't stay in the room. The Republican side of the room is empty. They are gone. They are home with their family and friends. Maria and Fred will never get to be with their son Jerry.

They didn't do anything to protect us from gun violence, to protect us from the dangers of Zika, to protect us from lead poisoning. Our most sacred responsibility is the health and well-being of those we serve. Shame on our colleagues on the other side of the aisle. Have they no decency to bring these bills to the floor and do their job?

GUN VIOLENCE

(Mr. WELCH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, we have common ground on the Republican and Democratic side of the aisle. There is a problem of gun violence. Innocent people—children in Newtown, workers in San Bernardino, worshippers in Charleston, and five very brave police officers in Dallas protecting the right of citizens to protest—all have been killed.

We have got to do something. We know that. We have a disagreement about what. But should we have a disagreement that we not even debate what is the right response as a policy to protect innocent lives from future gun violence? That is the question.

We can debate the Second Amendment. We can protect gun owner rights. But we can't hide from the responsibility that we chose to accept when we ran for office and asked people to entrust us with their vote in this Congress, that we won't even discuss, we won't debate, we won't have a committee hearing, we won't have a bill on the floor. That is what is really unacceptable.

Do you know what? We have a disagreement. Put some bills on the floor. We vote. Our voters then get to hold us accountable one way or the other.

□ 1545

JUST AN ORDINARY SUNDAY

(Ms. FRANKEL of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it was just another Sunday in December 2006 in West Palm Beach, Florida. Greg Key was in church, with the pastor delivering a sermon—a little sweat on his brow. It was just another Sunday when Greg's cell phone buzzed. He stepped out for a call that changed his life.

The voice on the other end told him that his 19-year-old daughter—the shining light of his life—had been gunned down as the innocent victim of a drive-by shooting.

On this ordinary Sunday, like on every other day of the year, 91 families got devastating news that a loved one had been killed by a firearm. Like I said, Mr. Speaker, it was just an ordinary Sunday.

TAKING ACTION ON GUN VIOLENCE

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my extreme concern that you have dismissed this House without taking action on the critical issues that face our Nation, especially gun violence.

I rise on their behalf—for the families who have lost loved ones to gun violence all over the country and in my own community. I rise for these mothers and fathers who wake up every morning, worried about the safety of their children and communities, who will continue to wait with no action due to your decision.

On an average day, as has been stated eloquently, more than 90 Americans are killed by guns. How many more lives will it take until we come to terms with this reality? How many more days must go by until this House takes even one small step in the right direction?

Every day counts. Every life counts. The American people deserve better. The decision to adjourn is shameful. I urge you to get this House back to work to address the gun violence epidemic so we can finally act on the call of "not one more."

CRISES DEMAND ACTION

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the Republicans in this House work awfully hard at doing nothing. We face many crises—crises that demand action. We have a crisis with regard to the Zika virus. We have a crisis in Flint, Michigan, where people have been poisoned by lead-contaminated water. We have a gun violence crisis in this country where massacres have become the new norm.

What is the Republicans' response? Nothing. Nothing. Nothing. Nothing.

The only concrete action they have taken is to adjourn the House so they can go on vacation. We shouldn't be going on vacation until we do the people's business.

Shame on the Republican leadership for adjourning this House and not taking up gun safety legislation, not addressing the crisis in Flint, Michigan, and not funding the crisis regarding the Zika virus. The people of this country deserve better.

Mr. Speaker, I call on you to bring the House back, and let's do our work.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, countless families and loved ones in my district are suffering as a result of the recent gun violence that claimed the lives of 5 police officers and injured 11 more officers and civilians in Dallas. The ambush on the Dallas police was the deadliest incident for U.S. law enforcement since the September 11 attacks in our country. Yet House Republicans are leaving Washington today, for a 52-day recess, without taking any action to address the gun violence epidemic that is happening all across the Nation.

The tragedy that occurred in my district, as well as the countless other shootings that we seldom hear about, begs the question: How many more innocent Americans will have to lose their lives before we act to put an end to gun violence?

The answer, in my opinion, should be "none." No more Americans should have to lose their lives. There are a number of proposals in Congress that are available today for the House Republicans to bring to the floor for a vote. This legislation is available now.

Mr. Speaker, countless families and loved ones in my district are suffering as a result of the recent gun violence that claimed the lives of five police officers and injured eleven more officers and civilians in Dallas last week. This ambush on Dallas police was the deadliest incident for U.S. law enforcement since the September 11th attacks.

Yet, House Republicans are leaving Washington today for a fifty-two day recess without taking any action to address the gun violence epidemic happening across our nation. The tragedy that occurred in my district, as well as the countless other shootings that we seldom hear about, begs the question of how many more innocent Americans will have to lose